

# Education, Employment, and Program Improvement Issues Top Agenda During First Regional Forum Hosted by Floyd Co. Area Technology Center

KY Tech - Floyd Co. Area Technology Center Principal Lenville Martin and his faculty and staff hosted over 100 people during the first of ten regional cluster meetings on Thursday, October 5. Assisting with this endeavor were Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) Ombudsman Bill Denton and KY Tech Area Supervisors Linda Floyd and Barney Judd.



OCTE Ombudsman  
Bill Denton

“The ten meetings taking place across the state are designed to identify regional issues,” said Bill Denton as he officially welcomed everyone to the forum. “The goal is to [identify program improvements](#) by:

- listening to business and industry leaders from local, regional and state levels;
- determining current trends and issues to identify a regional prospective;
- providing a better workforce for the future by aligning KY Tech programs to the needs of business and industry;
- working toward mutually beneficial outcomes to support business and industry needs; and,
- electing representatives from each meeting to serve on a statewide advisory committee.”

Individuals who attended were business and industry representatives, education administrators, and instructors from Floyd, Breathitt, Knott, Letcher, and Pike counties. Their purpose was to come together to discuss technical education and skills training and academic needs with education officials and program consultants from the OCTE. One of the major goals of the OCTE is to respond to the training needs of business and industry for the community. Continual technical and demographic changes necessitate the examination of programs to determine and identify ways that technical education programs can be improved to deliver a more employable individual.

“From the comments we received, this meeting was a complete success. The ultimate value in this whole initiative is what will be developed to positively impact the students in all of our area technology centers on a statewide basis. Our mission is *to develop a versatile individual by providing technical education and skills training in a safe environment*,” says Martin. “We believe that by working with both business and industry and the academic community, the technical and academic skills being taught in our programs will provide students with the tools they need for employment upon graduation. Based on what the business and industry representatives relayed, we have a better perspective on what they expect from graduates of our programs. ”



Lenville Martin





**“By holding these types of meetings, we should be able to get a better perspective on what business and industry expects from graduates of our programs,” said Letcher Co. ATC Principal Barbara Ison. “Not only are we looking at technical skills, we are looking at ways to improve the academic skills of the students who take our programs. We realize that if this connection can be made, the final product will be a more employable individual.”**

**Photo at left: Letcher Co, Assistant Superintendent Terry Sturgill and Letcher Co. ATC Principal Barbara Ison.**



**L to r: Knott Co H.S. Principal Robert Pollard, Knott Co. ATC Principal Patrick Goodin and in foreground, Barney Judd.**



**Above: Glenda Tackett and Rosalind Stanley, representing the Pike Co. Board of Education. Both ladies were guests of Belfry ATC Principal Annette Harris-Ward.**





**Area Supervisor Barney Judd conducts the "Principals Cluster Group" discussion.**



**Above: Bobby Varney, International Coal and Pike Co. Board member shakes hands with Barney Judd. Varney was the guest of Belfry ATC Principal Annette Harris-Ward (center) and Belfry Instructor Robin May.**



**Above: Millard ATC Principal Jim Bob Hamilton**

**"I like the regional forum concept because it brings people together from a variety of businesses and industries," says Belfry ATC Principal Annette Harris-Ward. "From their input, it gives us a much better grasp on what is expected in today's work world and it is our hope that the state advisory committee can help bring about changes that are needed in our schools. It was extremely beneficial to have break-out sessions for each program area to discuss employability strategies."**

**Breakout sessions in the areas of communication and information technology, construction technology, business technology, health and human services, manufacturing and transportation were held conducted by OCTE program consultants to specifically address the following:**

- ☐ ● **skills employers want entry-level employees to possess;**
  - **improving employability skills;**
  - **improving academic skills;**
  - **improving technical skills attainment;**
  - **barriers to hiring a high school graduate;**
  - **industry certifications;**
  - **improving opportunities for work-based learning; and,**
  - **meeting the needs of businesses and industries.**
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#### **Communications and Information Technology**

**“The Communications committee unanimously felt that the best way KY Tech could help their communities, students and ATC’s would be to provide on-site math and English teachers for each ATC,” said OCTE Technical Training Consultant Joe Morgan. “They felt so strongly about this recommendation, stating ‘on-site academic teachers would increase student academic and technical achievement – even if they were there only on a part time basis each week.’”**

**Photo at right: Joe Morgan hands out information during his cluster session.**







**Construction Technology**



**Above:  
OCTE  
Consultant  
Tommy  
Sutton  
addresses  
participants  
in the  
construction  
cluster  
meeting.**

**At left:  
instructors  
and invited  
guests.**

## **Business and Marketing Technology**

**“The cluster meetings are a great opportunity for those that work with curriculum on a daily basis to ensure that KY Tech courses align with the needs of business and industry,” said OCTE Academic Consultant Dale Winkler. “The dialogue between industry representatives and career and technical education teachers helps to identify current trends that must be addressed within the curriculum. A goal of these meetings is to provide a well equipped workforce for the Commonwealth, and this can only be accomplished with a curriculum that is designed with all the stakeholders in mind.”**

**Photo below (l to r): Breathitt Co. ATC Business Technology Instructors Jerry Smith and Joseph Mayabb; Floyd Co. ATC Business Technology Instructor Connie McKinney and OCTE Academic Consultant Dale Winkler**





## Health and Human Services



**Elizabeth Bullock**  
conducting health  
and human services  
cluster meeting

### Health Sciences Instructors



**Floyd Co. ATC Health Sciences  
Instructor Charolette Jarrell.**  
Not only did she attend the  
cluster meetings, she was  
heavily involved in making and  
serving the outstanding dinner  
for all the participants.

## Manufacturing and Welding



**At left: Belfry ATC  
Welding Instructor  
Jonathon Bogar and  
Belfry ATC Machine Tool  
Technology Instructor  
Paul Williams listen to  
Steve Bennett (at right),  
who serves as the OCTE  
Academic Consultant for  
manufacturing and  
welding.**





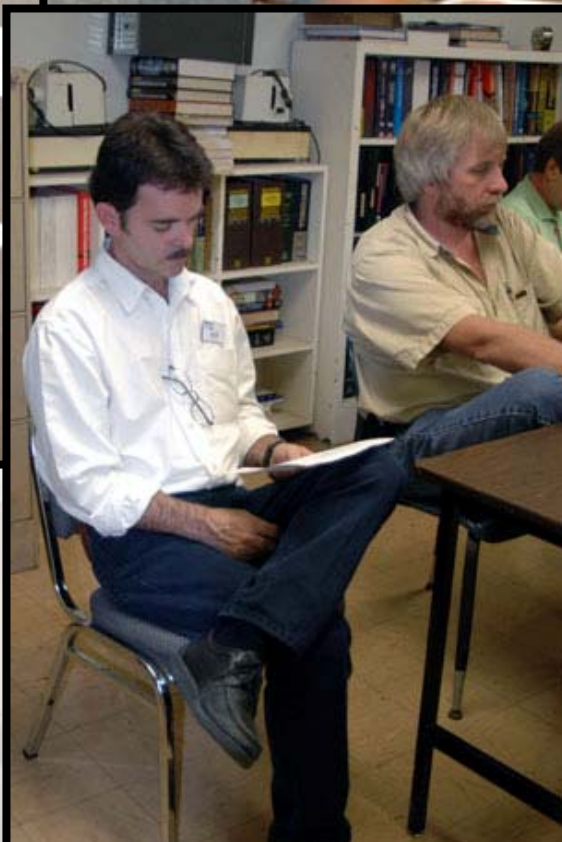


**KY Tech automotive technology and auto body repair instructors who attended the Transportation Cluster Meeting.**

**At right: Breathitt Co. ATC Automotive Technology Instructor Jesse Tackett and Knott Co. ATC Instructor Dennis Jacobs**



## **Transportation**



**Above: Far right, OCTE Academic Consultant Todd Nickens addresses “transportation” attendees. At his right is Floyd Co. ATC Automotive Technology Instructor Gary Mullins.**



**At the conclusion of the Floyd Co. meeting, three business people volunteered to serve on an OCTE Statewide Advisory Committee to represent the area including: Mr. John Cobb, owner of J & K Contractors; Mr. Keith Akers, sales manager, Monumental Insurance of Allen, KY; and Mr. Scott Hall, co-owner OEM Retrofit of Prestonsburg, KY. The primary purpose of each representative is to address regional issues. The committee will meet twice a year, once regionally and one time in Frankfort to address the issues and concerns sited in the regional meetings.**

**“I think it is important for both the business and education systems to work together to produce the type of individual needed in today’s workforce,” says John Cobb. “It’s extremely important for the educational entities to get on the same page, to find out what the concerns are in business and industry and how to unite those**



**issues and concerns with the opportunities that are available in the educational system. Based on that information, it makes sense to present viable solutions to government agencies so that changes can be made. I’m proud to be a member of this committee and have high hopes of affecting positive changes.”**

**At left: Lenville Martin and John Cobb. Cobb agreed to serve as an industry representative on the statewide advisory committee.**

**“It was very exciting to see such a strong regional representation from business and industry in eastern Kentucky,” said OCTE Area Supervisor Barney Judd. “I want to express my appreciation to Lenville Martin and the staff of the Floyd Co. ATC for taking the extra steps to make sure this meeting ran smoothly. We’re looking forward to being able to send our regional committee representatives to the state advisory committee to support our needs.”**

**“In my opinion, the cluster meeting was a great success for many reasons,” says OCTE Area Supervisor Linda Floyd. “One of the most important was the opportunity for the program consultants to hear first and in person what industry representatives had to say about our programs. It’s one thing to read about recommendations, but hearing those recommendations gives everyone a whole new perspective. Together, this group represents a cluster of individuals willing to make a difference in the education of students and that’s what we are all about – serving the needs of all students pursuing technical education and skills training.”**

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